

20. [new]

The template system of claim 6, wherein said system of templates is provided at the level of an operating system, said grids comprising frames in which programs can be displayed.

21. [new]

The method of claim 11, wherein said operation on the grid is selected from at least one of the following: repositioning, resizing and reorienting.

22. [new]

The method of claim 11, wherein said template is at the level of an operating system, said grids comprising frames in which programs can be displayed.

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Remarks

Claims 1,3-6 and 8-22 are pending in the application. Claims 17-23 are new and do not introduce new matter. No additional fee is required.

The Examiner after 3 ½ years of prosecution has now for the first time rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8-13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 101 alleging that they are directed to non-statutory subject matter. In order to moot this rejection, the claims have been amended to specify that the template, system of templates and the methods as claimed be used for computer information display. The instant disclosure repeatedly points this out and namely that the invention is directed to a means and method for displaying information on a computer display.

The Examiner further contends that even “if the claims limitations recited on or in a computer, they are still non-functional descriptive material.”

Apparently, the Examiner has failed to recognize the functions of the template, system of templates and method of the invention. This is so because the Examiner stripped the invention away from the computer. The templates and systems are a user-friendly and artistically beautiful interface for displaying computer information to the viewer, and provide a portal for user input through an user-friendly and artistically beautiful interface.

The Examiner has further stated that even “if the claim limitations were functional, they are still not tangibly embodied on a computer, computer readable or other statutory device.” It should be clear that the limitations are functional and are viewable on a computer display device, such as a monitor, projector, etc., and that they are tangible to the viewer’s eyes.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6 and 8-14 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft FrontPage 98 in view of England and claims 15 and 16 as being unpatentable (35 U.S.C. 103(a)) over Microsoft FrontPage 98 in view of England and Courter et al.

The instant invention provides an automatic and aesthetically beautiful way of organizing various display objects using the 1:2 grid rather than having to resort to manual resizing as is the case with the prior art and which is time consuming, frequently inaccurate and does not necessarily provide an esthetically beautiful result.

The claims as now amended describe the invention as providing the flexibility and the built-in mechanism to allow the resizing and re-orientation of any of the grids while preserving the desired length-to-width ratio for all of the grids, since the grids affected will be automatically adjusted in a globally synchronized manner, and the grids can only be allowed for display when their length-to-width ratios have been adjusted by the built-in mechanism to the desired value. This is a benefit derived from providing a predetermined set of rules for displaying and arranging cells of a certain length-to-width ratio to fit the entire display area, and enforcing the rules by the built-in algorithm of the web script, program code, or operating system code, rather than manual calculation and intervention of a human.

This flexibility applies to all level, including not only the documents, web pages generated following the teaching of this invention, but also the programs in an operating system interface.

Figures 9-11 of the instant application contribute significantly as they illustrate how one can take advantage of the tatami design, by moving an image from a small cell to a big cell for better viewing, by resizing and/or reorienting the cells while maintaining the beautiful length-to-width ratios for all of the cells and other actions of a similar type. If however Word is used, one can create all kinds of static patterns, but any change, while attempting to maintain the length-to-width ratio a considerable amount of redesign work will be required.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-14 (35 U.S.C. 103 (a)) as being unpatentable over Microsoft FrontPage 98 in view of England is not well taken.

The FrontPage publication teaches the design of WWW pages. England teaches a multiple-object integrated browser-based specialist/client communications system. It is to be noted that the teaching of FrontPage and England is at the level of documents and programs, which is different from the level of operating system user-interface as in this invention. The operating system user-interface is made up of various program windows, one of which would be a WWW page or a browser-based communication system. The operating system-user interface is used as the input and output portals for a variety of programs, not limited to WWW pages or browsers. The dynamic nature implemented in FrontPage And England is acknowledged but with limitation. Thus it is noted that the dynamic nature in the manipulation of frames within a web page as taught in FrontPage is almost entirely reserved for the designer, while the user is only left with the ability to resize the frames provided that the designer wishes to leave this freedom in the design. The user has no freedom in re-arranging the layout of the page, or changing the number of frames. England reserved the ability to change the design to the specialist, but not the end user. This applies to both the level of the operating system user-interface and the program, WWW page level in the instant invention.

The invention teaches a plurality of grids with one-by-one, two-by-one aspect ratio, as inspired by Tatami mat. The Examiner has cited the teaching in the prior art that

the object width and length can be specified by the user as grounds for his rejection. This rejection is not fairly based as the Tatami-mat-like aspect ratio is built into the mechanism of the invention and is enforced dynamically and constantly to achieve the same aesthetic effect. As a comparison, in FrontPage, a simple change in the number of objects (e.g. frames) orientation, aspect ratio, size and layout of the objects will disrupt the uniform aspect ratio as initially planned by the designer. To restore the desired uniform aspect ratio, the designer or the user has to manually re-adjust up to every remaining object, an extremely tedious job. In the teachings of England a specialist is relied on to give the correct command if the uniform aspect ratio is to be maintained at a certain value for all the grids in a browser window. It can be a very tedious job if the browser window contains a large plurality of grids, and this manual control is more prone to error compared to the built-in mechanism detailed in the invention.

Claims 15 and 16 have been rejected as anticipated by Couter, and as obvious over FrontPage in view of Couter, Couter et al teaches a method for displaying text and other information on a display using tables, which can possess cells of rectangular shape having various length to width ratio, including the 2:1 Tatami design and whose cells can be oriented in either vertical or horizontal manner. The word "cell" in the table design in Couter et al is considered equivalent to the word "grid" in this invention and the two words are used interchangeably.

However, Couter et al, fails to teach several important aspects of the invention as for example the level and scope of the tabulation.

The tabulated design taught by Couter et al only applies to the document level, like word documents as exemplified in the book, or potentially a web page. Couter et al fails to teach a gridded design for the display of an entire operating system as is taught in the instant invention. It is believed that there is no known or published teaching that arranges various programs in an operating system in a tabulated manner. The size of program window, length-to-width ratio and position need to be adjusted by the user manually and individually without any built-in mechanism to maintain a desired length-to-width ratio and complete coverage of the physical display and to keep from overlaying one another. This results in a significant sluggishness in navigating among the various programs, especially when more than one program needs to be displayed in the foreground without overlapping.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 15 and 16 (35 U.S.C 103(a)) over Microsoft FrontPage in view of Couter.

Microsoft FrontPage has been discussed above. Further, as to Couter, this reference teaches the arrangement of tables in a Microsoft Word document, which can be used for various office purposes, such as reports, manuscripts for publication, web pages, and the like. In contrast, one of the two purposes of the invention is the display of operating system user-interface, the other being for display of World Wide Web abbreviated as WWW) pages. It is to be noted that the operating system user-interface is at a different level and scope when compared to a Microsoft Word document. The operating system user-interface is made up of various program windows, one of which

could be a Microsoft Word document. The operating system user-interface is used as the input and output portals for all variety of programs, not limited to a Microsoft Word document. This rationale about difference in scope can also be applied to where a program other than Microsoft Word is involved, such as browser.

Couter et al teaches the creation of a static pattern of object handling. The number orientation (e.g. vertical vs. horizontal), aspect ratio, size and the overall layout of the objects, e.g. text boxes, on a page are designed for and expected to be in a static pattern, unless the user is willing to go through a cumbersome editing process to manually change them. This manual readjustment becomes essentially a prohibitively time-consuming process if the entire display is to be filled completely without leaving any open space or causing overlap. The instant invention in contrast teaches a dynamic pattern of object handling. The number, orientation, aspect ratio, size and overall layout of the objects on a display can be dynamically changed upon a simple user input, and the entire display can be filled completely without leaving open space or causing overlaps, all achieved automatically following a built-in coding mechanism. This dynamic nature applies to both the level of operating system user-interface and the program, WWW page level in this invention.

It is further noted that the limited flexibility offered in the cited art is coded mostly for designer, rather than user. It is possible for a Microsoft Word document to be saved as a WWW page. Once the format is set and the pages are presented to the user for view, the ability to change the number, aspect ratio, size, orientation, and overall layout

of imbedded objects is at least partially impaired or completely unavailable on the user side. The dynamic ability for the user applies to both the level of operating system user-interface and the program, WWW page level in the instant invention.

The invention teaches a plurality of grids with one-by-one, two-by-one aspect ratio, as inspired by a Tatami mat. The Examiner relies on the prior art for it's teaching that the object width and length can be specified by the user. This rejection is not justified because the Tatami-mat-like aspect ratio is built into the mechanism of the invention and is enforced dynamically and constantly to achieve the same esthetic effect. In comparison, in the prior art, a simple change in the number of objects, orientation, size and layout of the objects will disrupt the uniform aspect ratio as initially planned by the designer. To restore the desired uniform aspect ratio, the designer or the user has to manually re-adjust up to every remaining object, an extremely tedious job. This rationale applies to both the level of operating system user-interface and the program WWW page level in this invention.

The Examiner has further rejected dependent claim 16 on Microsoft FrontPage. FrontPage teaches the design of World Wide Web pages. It is noted that based on arguments presented above, FrontPage fails to teach the same scope, fails to teach a dynamic pattern, fails to offer full flexibility on the user side, and fails to teach a built-in mechanism for the maintenance of a uniform aspect ratio of the imbedded objects.



The further rejection of dependent claim 16 relying on the teaching of Courter et al in the grid subdivision in the design of a Microsoft Word document should be withdrawn for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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